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THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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UNO honors Kwanzaa through celebration

J. PARKER ADAIR
NEWS EDITOR

During the holiday season, many people are so busy rushing around worrying about buying gifts, getting the best deal and running over anyone in their path that they tend to forget what they are celebrating.

On Thursday, UNO hosted its ninth annual Kwanzaa luncheon in the Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom.

Keynote speaker Saidi J. Liwaru stressed the importance of Kwanzaa as an African American holiday as well as a Pan-African holiday. Kwanzaa is a time for knowing one's roots while bettering one's culture.

Liwaru is the host of the *Real Solutions* television program. He said that the timing of Kwanzaa -Dec. 26 through Jan. 1- is the perfect time to connect and look what is going on around in one's environment.

It is important, "to get away from the belief of a fat white man bringing gifts to poor kids in the ghetto," Liwaru said. "Parents are lying to their kids. We're thinking of gifts. We're thinking of snow and ho-ho-ho, but (we need to get away from that). When you're celebrating Kwanzaa, you start to think of buying this child a gift that would better represent black culture."

A relatively young holiday, Kwanzaa was created in 1966 while in of the midst of African liberation and is celebrated by millions throughout the world. Its purpose is to reaffirm the community vision and values of African culture while bettering the lives of Africans. It begins with Africans in America, expanding into the global African community.

Kwanzaa comes from the philosophy of Kawaia, a cultural nationalist philosophy

that argues that Africans must bring forth the best of their culture to be models of human excellence, enriching and expanding the lives of their people.

One of the misconceptions of Kwanzaa is that people must chose between Kwanzaa, Christmas and Chanukah during the season. It is very possible to celebrate Kwanzaa and Christmas at the same time. Much like one would celebrate St. Patrick's Day -an Irish cultural holiday- during Lent, one can celebrate Kwanzaa and Christmas.

Other people can celebrate it as embracing another culture. While it is focused on African and African American enrichment, Kwanzaa can benefit all people by showcasing its culture to those who do not know much about it. Just as there are large celebrations for Cinco de Mayo with many non-Mexicans, Kwanzaa is open to be appreciated by other cultures as well. There are rituals to Kwanzaa that are not meant for an audience, but rather its designated celebrants.

The holiday has a message for all peoples, but it is deeply rooted in African culture, speaking to the world.

A line from www.TheOfficialKwanzaaWebsite.com said, "Any particular message that is good for a particular people, it is human in its content and ethical in its grounding, speaks not just to that people, it speaks to the world."

The term Kwanzaa comes from the phrase, "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits."

On the seventh day of Kwanzaa, -Jan. 1- a time of reflection is had. It is period of self-reflection and a recommitment to the highest cultural values in a special way. Following in the tradition, it is then time to ask and answer, soberly

and humbly the three Kawaia questions: Who am I; am I really who I say I am; and am I all I ought to be?

Kwanzaa is filled with a great deal of symbolism and deep cultural connection that can only be had by seeking more information.

Liwaru is the father of Sharif Z. Liwaru, the Cultural Awareness Adviser for the Student Organizations and Leadership Programs Office.

Sharif gave the opening remarks for the lunch. Jeff Epting was the host of the event. Epting is the Social Action Chair of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

After the keynote address, a somewhat culturally diverse audience of nearly 50 people enjoyed a meal of fried chicken, greens, cornbread, pumpkin pie and macaroni and cheese.

Following the meal, a candle lighting



Jeff Epting (left) and Liza Arellano participate in the candle lighting ceremony during the Kwanzaa celebration held Thursday at the Milo Bail Student Center.

ceremony took place representative of Kwanzaa's seven principles: unity; self-determination; collective work and responsibility; cooperative economics; purpose; creativity; and faith.

Sharif Liwaru closed the event that brought unity amongst the African American community and allowed those of non-Africans decent a chance to learn a different culture.

Some information for this story was taken from www.TheOfficialKwanzaaWebsite.com.

Curtis leads men's basketball team to weekend sweep in Vermillion

J. PARKER ADAIR
NEWS EDITOR



Michelle Bishop

Abdul Mills catches the ball during a recent game.

Vermillion, S.D. played host to the South Dakota Classic this weekend, and UNO's Friday night game earned that billing. Ryan Curtis helped newly ranked No. 25 UNO avoid an upset at the hands of Minnesota State-Morehead Friday night -winning 61-60- before handling Southwest Minnesota State 65-52 Saturday.

Curtis scored 13 points to lead all scorers Friday night, and UNO needed all 13. Morehead opened up scoring, quickly jumping out to a lead. The Dragons built a 10-point lead -its largest of the game- with 7:47 left to play in the first half. UNO whittled the lead to two points thanks to a stretch of 7-8 from the free-throw line, and an Abdul Mills three pointer.

Morehead had a three-point lead after the first 20 minutes, extending it until an Andre Tarpley layup tied the game at 36 less than four minutes

in. Again the Dragons built a four-point lead, but Mills stopped them with another three. UNO took its first lead -by two points- at 11:11.

The teams traded leads, but it looked like the Dragons would do the slaying inside the five-minute mark. UNO's last lead was at 5:41 until Levy Jones hit a layup with 43 seconds on the clock, putting the Mavericks up 61-60. Jones and Calvin Kaples each added blocks to preserve the victory for UNO.

Curtis led all scorers with 13 points while Mills had 12 and Randy Bland had 10. Curtis and Kaples each had six rebounds. UNO shot 40 percent from the field, -the same as MSM- but they were 12 percent better from each the charity stripe and the arc.

After escaping the upset in the narrowest possible of margins, UNO played another close contest Saturday. Southwest Minnesota State kept UNO in check, allowing the Mavs no more than a four-point lead while taking several one-point leads. That lasted until 10:37

in the first half, when Chris DeSpain broke a 19-19 tie that sent UNO on 12-2 run. After building a 13-point lead -its longest of the night- UNO took an eight-point lead to the locker room.

In the second half, SWMS was able to cut the lead to four on a 6-0 run, but that was the closest the team would get. UNO scored five points in the final minute to take its second 13-point lead of the game when Curtis scored at the buzzer.

Four Mavericks were in double-digit scoring on the night. Tarpley tied for game high with 16 points. DeSpain added 14. Kaples had 11. Curtis recorded a double-double with 12 points -for a team-high 25 on the weekend- and 10 rebounds. Mills managed only one-point in his first start of the season.

The Mavs return home to face Wayne State tonight at 8 p.m. in the Sapp Fieldhouse. UNO has a 7-1 record on the season; its only loss was to Division I Colorado State.

Omaha Weather



Today
Partly Cloudy
H: 47 L: 27



Wednesday
Cloudy and Breezy
H: 50 L: 32



Thursday
Cloudy and Breezy
H: 52 L: 28

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News Briefs

COMPILED BY J. PARKER ADAIR
NEWS EDITOR

Donations wanted for Sigma Tau Delta children's book drive

The UNO chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the English honorary society, is currently holding a children's book drive.

Students, staff, faculty and the public are encouraged to drop off new or nearly new children's books in a collection box in the foyer of Room 189 of Arts and Sciences Hall or Room 100 of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building by Friday, Dec. 10.

Sigma Tau Delta members are collecting books for classrooms at Kellom Elementary School, as part of its community partnership.

The Sigma Tau Delta members will wrap and deliver the books to Kellom the following week. For more information, call 554-2699.

Nominations sought for Vice Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Leadership

Nominations/applications are currently being accepted for the 2005 Vice Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Leadership. This annual award recognizes an undergraduate student who has demonstrated exemplary leadership through influential participation in campus organizations and community volunteer work in addition to scholarly achievement.

All nominees must be undergraduates enrolled at UNO with a 2.5 GPA, and who will be graduating in December 2004 or May/August of 2005.

The following items are necessary for the application/nomination to be processed. The application must be presented to the nominee by the nominator:

Nomination Packets: Nomination packets are available in the Student Organizations and Leadership Programs Office on the first floor of the Milo Bail Student Center.

Nominator's Recommendation: The nominator's recommendation letter must be completed and returned with the nomination form to the Student Organizations and Leadership Programs Office by Friday, Feb.

11.

Nominee's Application: The nominee's application must be returned to the Student Organizations and Leadership Programs Office by Friday, Feb. 18.

Nominee's Essay: The Vice Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Leadership will be presented at the 2005 Spring Honors Convocation April 28 and the Student Leader Reception during Honors Week April 14. For more information, call 554-2711.

Missouri Valley Reading Series concludes Thursday with Mary Helen Stefaniak

Author Mary Helen Stefaniak will bring the 2004 Missouri Valley Reading Series to a close Wednesday with a public reading of her work. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the UNO Art Gallery. The series is sponsored by the UNO Writer's Workshop, a unit of the UNO College of Fine Arts.

Stefaniak, an assistant professor of English and director of creative writing at Creighton University, is a writer of fiction and essays. W.W. Norton published her first novel, *The Turk and My Mother*, in June 2004. Her work has appeared in the anthologies *New Stories from the South: The Year's Best 2000* (Algonquin Books) and *In the Middle of the Middle West: An Anthology of Creative Non-Fiction* (Indiana University Press, 2003). She is the recipient of the Wisconsin Library Association's 1998 Banta Award for Literacy Excellence for her collection of short fiction titled *Self Storage and Other Stories* (New Rivers Press).

An open discussion with the writer will immediately follow her reading. For more information, call 554-2406.

Student Organizations and Leadership Programs Office will host holiday reception tomorrow

The Student Organizations and Leadership Programs Office, located on the first floor of the Milo Bail Student Center, will hold its holiday reception tomorrow. The reception will be held from noon to 1 p.m. All are welcome to come and socialize with staff and students. Free pizza and iced tea will be served. For more information, call 554-2711.

Sociologist George Ritzer to speak at UNO Friday

Distinguished sociologist and author George Ritzer will speak at UNO Friday. The colloquium will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Milo Bail Student Center Dodge Room. It is free and open to the public.

Ritzer, a professor of sociology at the University of Maryland, will present "McDonaldization and the Globalization of Nothing: The Case of Art." He was awarded the Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award in 2000 by the American Sociological Association.

Ritzer's body of work focuses on applying social theory to the everyday realms of the economy and consumption, including "The McDonaldization of Society," "Enchanting a Disenchanted World: Revolutionizing the Means of Consumption" and "The Globalization of Nothing." He recently edited "The Handbook of Social Theory" with Barry Smart and is the co-founding editor of the *Journal of Consumer Culture*.

The event is sponsored by the Nebraska Alpha chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta – the International Sociology Honor Society, the UNO Department of Sociology & Anthropology, the UNO College of Arts and Sciences, and the Creighton University Department of Sociology & Anthropology.

For more information, contact Lucy Garza at 554-3835 or lgarza@mail.unomaha.edu.

Nominations sought for inaugural Mary Ann Lamanna Award in Women's Studies

Nominations are currently being sought for the inaugural Mary Ann Lamanna Award for Excellence in Women's Studies at UNO.

The award will recognize extraordinary service to the UNO Women's Studies Program, involving teaching, research/creative activity and service, or a combination of the three. It will be presented annually at the spring

Women's Studies Luncheon.

The deadline to submit nominations for the inaugural 2005 award is Feb. 15.

Nominees for the Lamanna Award may include students, faculty and staff.

Nominators must be connected to the UNO Women's Studies Program. They should submit a one- to two-page letter outlining the particular accomplishments of the nominee and their relevancy to the UNO Women's Studies Program.

The nominator also must solicit at least two supporting letters from colleagues or peers affiliated with the UNO Women's Studies Program. In addition, the nominator should submit the nominee's résumé and a representative example of the nominee's work that is relevant to the award.

Nominees will be reviewed by a selection committee comprised of two members of the UNO Women's Studies Program Executive Committee, two at-large Women's Studies faculty members, and one Women's Studies major or minor.

The award is named in honor of Lamanna, a professor emerita of sociology and a retired professor of Women's Studies at UNO. She was the chair of the first Ad Hoc Women's Studies Advisory Committee from 1985-87 and was involved in many other formative activities in the Department of Women's Studies. She received her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Notre Dame in 1977 and

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FEATURES

Crystal R. Reid | Features Editor

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features@gateway.unomaha.edu | December 7, 2004

Holiday fashion that won't offend grandma, help you spread holiday spirit

ALEX MAY
STAFF WRITER

I love the holiday season! Recently I was really captured in the spirit as I walked around Village Pointe shopping center. I had just seen *The Polar Express* with my family, which contributed I'm sure. Not a bad movie by the way, although they had to drag me in there kicking and screaming.

There was still a wee bit of snow on the ground and the holiday music was playing while the horse and carriage made its rounds jing-jing-jingling all the way. A topper to the night was sitting by the fire, the Christmas tree lights glowing, watching all the episodes of "What Not to Wear" that my step-mom had cataloged on Tivo.

If you are anything like me then you have a lot of holiday engagements coming up, and you are expected, as always, to look the part. I myself am very nervous this year. I have family Christmas pictures and I am pretty unnerved about the whole thing, as I have nothing to wear. On Thanksgiving, I completely slobbered out, wearing track pants and a North Face Fleece, and sadly enough I know I can get away with that but once.

Luckily, winter is full of fun fashion! I love fur (fake fur, of course!)

Gap has really great faux fur vests that you can layer to look festive. There are also a ton of jackets out now that have fur lining on the hood. You could also grab a furry scarf or big furry ski boots to

add a warm touch.

I love white for winter, although all sorts of close-minded rule-following people may tell you that it is inappropriate after Labor Day. Bah-humbug to that! Go for more creamy shades.

A lot of places are featuring beautiful off-the-shoulder sweaters that would look great with denim and boots. On *Nick and Jessica's Family Christmas*, Jessica wore an all-white outfit that was so Aspen ski lodge, and it looked fabulous.

Cardigans and sweater sets look cute and classy and won't offend grandma. You can wear them with jeans or with skirts and dress them up or down. They come in every color and look great with sparkly pins or a ribbon belt.

I think guys can never go wrong with a black button-up. It just looks so classy, sophisticated, and, to quote Paris Hilton, "that's hot!" I also love a lot of the sweaters that are out for men now. They just look so inviting and cozy. It all makes me want to cuddle up in front of the fire with a cup of hot cocoa.

Scarves: scarves on men, scarves on women, scarves are great! Pair them with outerwear, or use them to accessorize a T-shirt. There are just so many to choose from!

Now go out in your holiday best and spread the holiday spirit. You might want to take a walk around the Old Market or Village Pointe if you need any inspiration. Between the lights and carriages, you should have no problem getting merry!

Find the holiday gifts without the nuisance of shopping, crowds

MADELEINE MARR
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS (KRT)

You flaked out. Couldn't get it together. You didn't buy anything for anybody yet. And you likely won't.

Blame the dog. Your boss. Anything, except hurricanes (that excuse won't cut it anymore, unfortunately).

Take a breath. You're OK.

Thankfully, someone up there in Retail Land created these lovely little

of the best of the best, for everyone on your list:

Nordstrom: Feeling lazy? One big advantage that Nordstrom's fashionably festive Gift Cards have: They're available at every sales counter as well as on the store's Web site.

"It's more than mere convenience; it's a can't-miss opportunity to give them just what they want," says Nordstrom spokesman John Bailey. What's also nice for the time-pressed who can't get off their duffs to go shopping: The gift cards don't expire, and if lost, stolen or damaged, can be replaced for the remaining value with proof of purchase.

The striped cards come in a variety of cool color combinations meant to conjure up different holidays; e.g. green, brown and red for Kwanzaa; blue and gray for Hanukkah; and pink and brown for classic Holiday.

Details: (877)-771-

GIFT (4438), www.nordstrom.com.

Best Buy: Most guys just aren't as picky about gifts (read: they don't care all that much). But to really see a smile light



KRT Campus

Bath and Body Works offers a Gift Card for the holidays featuring cute chubby snowmen this year.

paper thingies that cost as much as you'd like them to, and come in tidy, pretty packages that both the sender and receiver can wield with very little effort. Gift certificates. Here's a roundup

See **SHOPPING:** Page 4

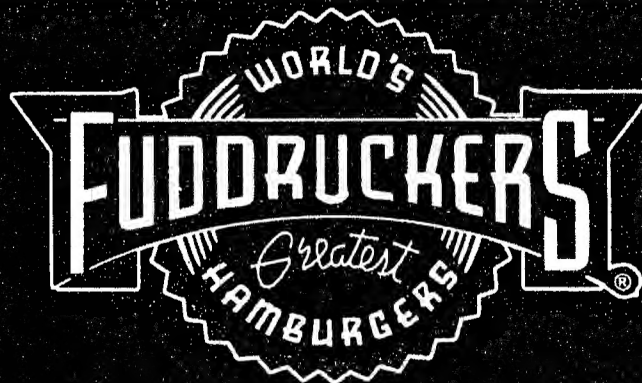
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UNO community acknowledges World AIDS Day through forum featuring health care professionals

ANGI SADA
STAFF WRITER

At events supporting the 17th Annual World AIDS Day, UNO students had the opportunity to listen to health care professionals discuss the issue of AIDS.

On Wednesday Dec. 1 at the Milo Bail Student Center, UNO students participated in a film screening and forums with a current AIDS patient and Sherri Nared, an HIV Prevention Specialist for the Douglas County Health Department.

Focusing on awareness in college-aged individuals was a large plank in the platform from which Nared spoke. She showed several slides containing graphic images of the physical symptoms of several Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Nared said that this was vital in promoting AIDS education because of the links between AIDS and other STDs.

"The reason why I show these slides is because you cannot see HIV," Nared said. "Most of us need a visual. I gave you something to look at, didn't I? If you have gonorrhea or chlamydia, you are three to five times as likely to have AIDS (as someone who doesn't). If you have herpes, you're nine times more likely to be positive."

Marcia Adler, coordinator of Student Health Services, echoed the significance of this correlation. According to Adler, an individual with gonorrhea or chlamydia is more likely to carry HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Dr. Wally Bacon, faculty advisor for the Gay and Lesbian Organization, said that getting students to recognize that AIDS is still a threat is vital to prevention. He feels that this relaxed approach to AIDS is because it is not as shocking a subject as it was at the onset of the epidemic in the 1980s.

"The advantage of that sort of terrible education we all received

in the 1980s created an opportunity to educate," Bacon said. "The new infections, especially in young, gay men, are the highest they have been in years. People forget. It's not in your face anymore."

"We were very much aware of it in the 1980s after we'd been shocked... gradually we've become less and less aware of it, and more careless."

Adler believes that by introducing AIDS as more than a health issue of numbers and making it relevant in many disciplines and areas of study, awareness of students can be improved in students.

"We need to look at the global issues of AIDS and political science and economics. Who is going to pay for the medications? Why should we have medicines and people in other countries don't (have medicines)? That's a sort of discrimination," said Adler.

Adler said that students have a tendency to be more careless because the wealth of new opportunities that exist on campus and because many see themselves as invincible.

"One of the things about being at the age of a traditional college student, growth and development wise, is that they're still in the framework of 'Nothing can happen to me. I'm strong. I'm healthy. These things are years down the road to worry about.'"

"Any one of us can get ourselves into a situation where we'd hook-up with someone that our better judgement would tell us otherwise, but it's a new opportunity."

Nared pointed out that it is paramount to have students understand that AIDS is an "equal opportunity" disease, but is rapidly showing a stronger hold on young people.

"The largest group of people dying from AIDS are 25 to 44 years old. You can have it in your system up to ten years and not even know it," Nared said.

Nared also said that HIV and AIDS know no color.

"When I went to school, back then we thought it was a gay, white male disease. But it's no longer. It's an everybody disease. It's equal opportunity. It doesn't care how rich or poor you are, if you're in jail or on college campuses. This is an us disease."

In the end, Adler stressed how vital it is for young people to have a plan before becoming sexually active. Knowing how you would handle a situation before it happens will ultimately simplify the issue.

Nared also said that it is imperative that young people take responsibility for themselves, including educating themselves about AIDS, their behaviors and their partners.

"If we don't start educating them (students) at the college level it's (AIDS on campuses) going to be huge. I don't know if we'll even have a use for colleges."

Sophomore Michael Ritchie, who attended the forum, said that he is going to keep a pro-active attitude towards the fight against AIDS and for AIDS awareness on college campuses.

"I can talk to my teammates and hopefully they can spread what I'm talking about around just by talking to other people. That's my part."

Adler said that AIDS testing is available at UNO five days a week and is confidential. For more information, contact Student Health Services at 554-2374.

From SHOPPING: Page 3

up his face, consider a gift card from Best Buy. That way he can get exactly what he wants: something he can plug in and play with. For those not so technologically minded, Best Buy's Geek Squad Gift Card (also available in any denomination) provides users with expert help—a 24-hour Computer Support Task Force to fix most glitches, viruses or spamming issues. The receiver can redeem the card for service in-store or have a Geek Squad agent come to them. (Note: If your guy's too macho to ask directions, go for option No. 1).

Details: (888)-BEST BUY (237-8289), www.bestbuy.com.

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The site is so easy to navigate that many non-shoppers may never hit a mall again. You can send your "SuperCertificate" via e-mail or regular; personalize it online with

an e-card. Recipients redeem the certificate on the Web site and then go shop in person at the participating stores of their choice, including favorites like Sharper Image, TJ Maxx, The Gap and Sunglass Hut. They can also redeem certificates for air travel or from among thousands of participating spas, restaurants or entertainment venues.

Details: (800)-PRESENT (773-7368), www.giftcertificates.com.

Bath and Body Works: Maybe you need to buy something for more folks than you count on two hands (Secret Santa can be a challenge). At this store, \$25 can go far. Anyone on your list can snatch up a few trendily scented Coconut Verbena hand sanitizers for \$4 each. Think of this as a truly charitable gift to society, helping to stave off the flu epidemic.

The holiday cards have cute chubby snowmen on them this year.

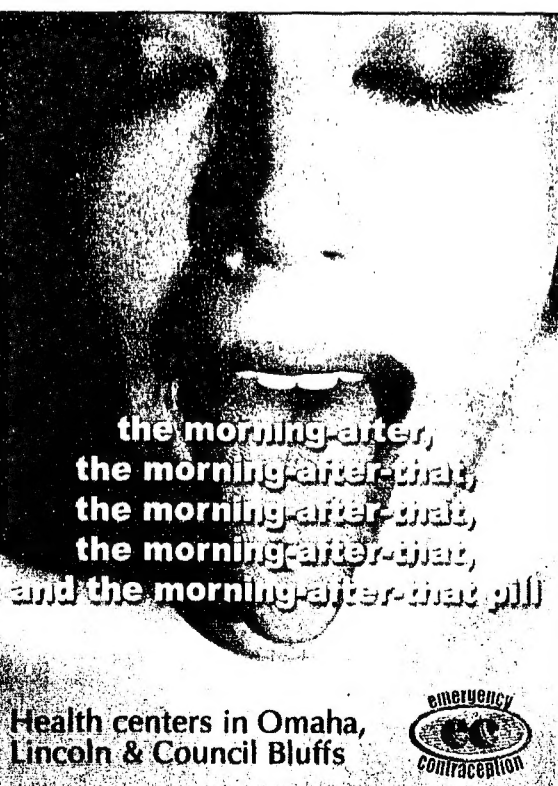
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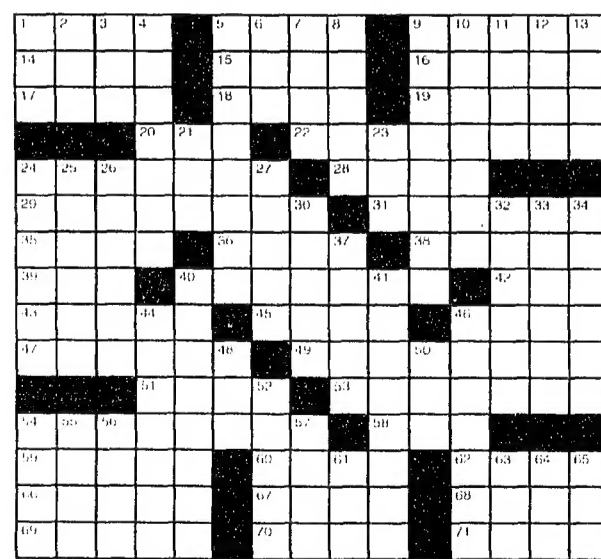
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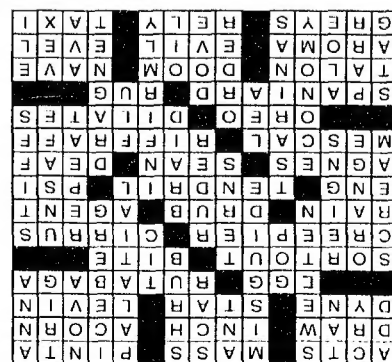
- ACROSS**
- 1 Play sections
 - 5 Conn. neighbor
 - 9 Nina's sister ship
 - 14 Sketch
 - 15 Foot twelfth
 - 16 Squirrel treat
 - 17 Unit of force
 - 18 Take the lead
 - 19 Author Ira
 - 20 Ovum
 - 22 Turnip cousin
 - 24 Disentangle
 - 28 Light snack
 - 29 More weird
 - 31 High-altitude cloud
 - 35 Liquid weather
 - 36 Defeat convincingly
 - 38 Representative
 - 39 H.S. subj.
 - 40 Twining growth
 - 42 Greek letter
 - 43 DeMille of dance
 - 45 O'Casey or Connery
 - 46 Refusing to listen
 - 47 Agave drink
 - 49 Rabble
 - 51 Nabisco favorite
 - 53 Makes wider
 - 54 Barcelona native
 - 58 Obvious toupee
 - 59 Claw
 - 60 Condemn to ruin
 - 62 Central part of a church
 - 66 Pleasant smell
 - 67 Wicked
 - 68 Daring Knave
 - 69 Lady Jane and Zane
 - 70 Depend
 - 71 Cab



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12/07/04

Solutions



- DOWN**
- 1 Tack on
 - 2 Shed tears
 - 3 Sunbather's aim
 - 4 Add sugar to
 - 5 Lead astray
 - 6 Hill-dwelling insect
 - 7 Flesh mark
 - 8 Decorative plant
 - 9 Spacious and luxurious
 - 10 Type of lettuce
 - 11 Scotia
 - 12 Math subj.
 - 13 "Karenina"
 - 21 Republican letters
 - 23 Muscle spasm
 - 24 Distress call
 - 25 Citrus fruit
 - 26 Exercises authority
 - 27 Gulls' kin
 - 30 More impolite
 - 32 Say again
 - 33 Dangerous
 - 34 Fails to leave a tip
 - 37 Plait
 - 40 Russian empresses
 - 41 Irresolutely
 - 44 Thriftiness
 - 46 Jack Webb series
 - 48 Comic Delaria
 - 50 Grippe
 - 52 Command
 - 54 Male affair
 - 55 Henry VIII's last Catherine
 - 56 Lotion ingredient
 - 57 Symbol of peace
 - 61 Lubricate
 - 63 Actress Gardner
 - 64 Irritate
 - 65 Yale student

Natalie Portman strips for *Closer*, yet maintains mystery

HANH NGUYEN
ZAI2IL.COM (KRT)

In Mike Nichols' relationship drama *Closer*, Natalie Portman – whose poise and talent often makes her seem older than her years – has finally come into her own as an adult actress.

Based on the award-winning play by Patrick Marber, *Closer* revolves around the lives of four strangers who meet, love, betray and ultimately ruin each other while seeking intimacy. Despite playing a stripper in the film, the 23-year-old "Star Wars" prequel actress insists that she doesn't feel fully mature.

"I don't really feel like an adult yet myself, so I don't really think I can play adults. I think it's always a proportion, adult to child within you, and even when you're 85 you're still going to have that proportion," explains Portman. "It changes with mood and with time. It's an arbitrary distinction between adult and child."

Director Nichols, who previously worked with Portman for a stage production of *The Seagull*, specifically wanted this curious mix of youth and sophistication for the role of Alice. "I wanted to start with a beautiful young girl, so adorable that Audrey Hepburn would worry ... And then (later in the film) Natalie comes back and she's increased," says Nichols.

Alice changes over the course of several years in the film, beginning as a charismatic pixie-like waif who captures the attention of obituaries journalist Dan, played by Jude Law. After experiencing a bitter betrayal, she inevitably becomes wiser and jaded, yet still keeps an intriguing, untouchable aura about her. Marber, who adapted his play for the screen, also sees this quality in Portman.

"She's extremely clever. She's got some secret about her as truly intelligent young women always do," gushes Marber. "She's enigmatic. She's absolutely in the now and she's real. She's quite a one."

Portman maintains her mystery when it comes to nudity as well. For the strip club scene, she agreed to let the film roll while she bared herself, but later decided against using the two-second shot of her closing her top.

"I didn't think it was crucial to the scene. I thought it was distracting, if anything, to have it at the head of the scene," she says.

Nichols, who describes the film as "not about showing anything," agreed to the cut, a decision that must have pleased Marber, who deliberately kept all of his characters clothed, albeit scantily at times, for the stage version.

"It's very important to me that there's no nudity in the play because it's all about

words and the words we use," he explains. "I wanted the audience to always feel like they'd seen all this sex, but they haven't seen a damn thing, if that makes any sense at all."

In fact, Portman and her co-stars Law, Julia Roberts and Clive Owen make it through the movie discussing and reacting to sex, but never participating in anything more passionate than a heated gaze or kiss on screen.

Of course, as Alice, Portman ratchets up the eroticism with her strip club scenes, for which she took pole dancing lessons, which she describes as "physically very demanding, a combination of dance and acrobatics."

Although she gained a new respect for the strength and stamina of exotic dancers, Portman didn't have to perform anything quite so taxing. Having taken dance lessons since the age of 4, she performs an effortless split in the film. "I'm extraordinarily flexible,"



KRT Campus

Cast member Natalie Portman attends the Los Angeles premiere of Columbia Pictures' *"Closer"* at the Mann Village Theatre, in Los Angeles, Nov. 22, 2004.

she comments matter-of-factly.

Her garb for the scene consists of a G-string, skimpy top, garter and colorful wig. Despite this provocative ensemble and her even more suggestive actions, the actress doesn't worry about her imminent status as a sex icon.

"I'm not scared. I'm brave," she says. "I'm not doing things to prove anything that I'm like or unlike what other people think of me. That makes me comfortable with whatever people walk away with. I can still carry on my own life without being hurt."

Closer opened nationwide on Friday.

WISH YOU WERE THERE

CLUELESS AND CLARK

REVIEW BY ANJANE GILES
STAFF WRITER

Clueless and Clark, a Native American twist on the historical expedition of Lewis and Clark, was performed Thursday, Dec. 2, in the Ballroom of the Milo Bail Student Center.

The all-indigenous cast portrayed historical characters accurately and humorously, with the help of director Sheila Rocha. Each actor gave a strong performance, including the small children that helped to make the play come together.

This story of Lewis and Clark is strongly positioned around the Native American point of view, and recalled the real-life events that actually occurred. The play was a successful attempt to make the audience understand the truth, while providing some comic relief at the same time.

The playwright (a and graduate of UNO), Valery Killscrow Copeland, told *The Gateway* that she hopes the play made a positive impact on people, and that it would help others to better understand the history and misrepresentation of the Native American people. The costumes were also created by Killscrow, with historical and cultural precision. Killscrow made the story both entertaining and eye-opening for the audience.

Cast member Moses Brings Plenty, who has had small roles in major films like *Thunderheart* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*, also hopes that *Clueless and Clark* and other Native American productions will help provoke positive change and understanding of history amongst the people who see them. It is both moving and amusing, and a true celebration of Native American theater.

What's opening in theaters next week

PHILIP WUNTCH
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS (KRT)

Opening Wednesday:

Blade: Trinity – Wesley Snipes returns as fearless vampire killer Blade, and this time he's joined by the likes of Kris Kristofferson and Parker Posey. The bloodsuckers are clever enough to launch a "smear campaign" that will pierce Blade's shield of secrecy.

Opening Friday:

Ocean's Twelve – Three years ago, *Ocean's Eleven* was one of the rare remakes deemed superior to the original. Now, we have a sequel to the remake. It's got the same cast: George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon and Julia Roberts. This time out, Brad's got a girlfriend, and she's played by Catherine Zeta-Jones.

Notable quotables

KNIGHT RIDDER/TRIBUNE NEWS
SERVICE (KRT)

"My great-aunt Frida, who is 89 and quite a character. She was a pioneer – one of the first women in Columbia Law School. She's very inspirational."

-Actress Maggie Gyllenhaal ("Criminal"), on her funniest relative, in *InStyle*.

"I'm a *Star Wars* freak. Also *Back to the Future*."

-Actor Topher Grace ("That '70s Show"), revealing his all-time favorite movies, in *InStyle*.

"I can no longer go to Wet Seal. Too many people recognize me. I'm missing all the good sales."

-Actor Adam Brody ("The O.C."), joking about his sudden popularity, in *People*.

Comments?
Concerns?
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Local band Private Hoserod provides a light, bluesy escape

REVIEW BY JOEL HARTUNG
STAFF WRITER

Ladies and gentlemen, live from boot camp: Pvt. Hoserod!

The album starts casually enough with that declaration before proceeding to meander through 12 bluesy, occasionally goofy tracks. In *Live From Boot Camp*, Private Hoserod has created a record that captures the energy of its live shows.

The first track, "Put Me Back Together Again," sets the pace for the rest of the album. Starting slowly, it builds to what can only be described as a bluesplosion (that's a blues explosion) at the end, featuring a surprisingly adept guitar solo and harmonica.

The song "Forevermore" begins with a classic country western strumming pattern, but quickly grows into much more as the lyrics and lead guitar come in.

"When I was just a little baby my momma used to always say rock that cradle forevermore/Now I've reached that age I try to do the best I can and I'm not able anymore," the lyrics declare somberly.

Other songs of note are the catchy "Smoke and Mirrors" and "No Pockets," which give the excuse of not being able to pay the bills because of a lack of pockets. While some of the songs are straight-up mellow blues, the band doesn't make the mistake of taking itself too seriously. The song "16th President," which is an ode to Abraham Lincoln, best demonstrates this.

The band is made up of middle-aged Omaha residents Dan Hosford, Mark Nelson, John Watt, Dave Nordin, Jeff Tegtmeier and Joe Buda. Their blend of

upbeat blues is the culmination of the members' eclectic songwriting styles.

The name Private Hoserod comes from an army anecdote of band founder Hosford. While in boot camp, Hosford had received his dog tags, which had a typo on them—Hosford was spelled "Hoserod." Instead of getting the error fixed, he just left it be, and the rest is history.

All of the band members have quite a history in music. Hosford, who is also the lead singer of the band, has played in many Omaha bands including The Fantasy Patch and The Exaggerators. Keyboard and guitar player Nelson has played in The Buddy Holly Review, Jonesin', Linoma Masher, Roadhouse, The Nelson Brothers and The Zebra Jam. Nordin, Tegtmeier and Buda have also played in several bands over the years.

One member to note is Watt, who plays guitar, harmonica and keyboards. Watt is permanently blind, as a result of a suicide attempt at the age of 18. After he lost his sight, he picked up a guitar and music became his outlet. He has been playing now for more than 20 years.

Private Hoserod plays every Friday night at the Cactus Café during happy hour from 6 to 9 p.m. The band is also scheduled to play on New Year's Eve at the Saddle Creek Bar, 1410 N. Saddle Creek Road. Tickets are \$15, and the show starts at 7:30 p.m.

Although a blues band at the core, Private Hoserod isn't afraid to let its sense of humor shine. *Live At Boot Camp* demonstrates the band's superb musical abilities with a great collection of catchy songs that prove that rock & roll isn't confined to age.

Enharmonic notes

I hope you die before you get old

COMMENTARY BY RAE LICARI
STAFF WRITER

Some people just don't know when to quit.

Musicians tend to be the type of people who don't know when to quit. Many just *do not* comprehend the concept of bowing out gracefully before you make a total fool of yourself, and they end up subjecting their fans to many disappointingly bad albums before they finally call it quits for good. (Maybe, at least until the reunion tour.)

Take, for example, The Cure. Don't get me wrong—I totally adore The Cure; the band has a secure spot in my All-Time Top Five. But Robert Smith et al have not put out a decent album in more than a decade—some would even say the band has failed to put out a *good* album since 1989's *Disintegration*. Instead, Cure fans have been subjected to boring (*Bloodflowers*), mediocre (*Wild Mood Swings*) and even sub-mediocre (*The Cure*) records.

The worst offense is the most recent; the past summer's self-titled release. Hailed by Smith as the best thing the band has ever done (anyone else notice how he seems to say that after EVERY new release?), *The Cure* is...well, the words "silly piece of trash" come to mind.

From BRIEFS: Page 2

her master's degree in sociology with a minor in psychology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She came to UNO in 1977 and retired in 2001 as a full professor. Her teaching and research interests have focused on family and gender, and include law and social policy in those areas.

For more information about the nomination process, contact Karen Falconer Al-Hindi at 554-3834 or kfalconeralhindi@mail.unomaha.edu.

Psychology Department colloquium today

The UNO Psychology Department will host a presentation by J. Dee Higley today. The colloquium will begin at noon in the Milo Bail Student Center Dodge Room. Dr. Higley is a staff scientist with the National Institutes of Health Intramural

Under the influence of producer Ross "Break Stuff" Robinson, The Cure transformed itself from a respectable, innovative group of musicians to a sad excuse for a Stone Temple Pilots cover band. I really wanted to like this new album, but even halfway into the very first song, I found myself cringing at its sheer awfulness and wishing Smith would for once make good on his threat to disband The Cure.

These kinds of travesties can not be allowed to continue. Therefore, I am suggesting a plan to prevent this sort of thing from happening again and again, and I am calling on all musicians everywhere to follow it with strict adherence.

The plan is simple, really, and similar to the "three strikes" program that has been implemented in some places for dealing with criminals. The plan goes into effect once a band has been together and releasing albums for more than 10 years. If the band then releases three sub-par records in a row, the members will acknowledge that it's time to call it quits. The band will then go into retirement and will remain defunct until the end of time or until the band can come up with some good new material, whichever comes first. *Voila!* No more horrible records released by aging, booze-addled pop stars! No more disappointed fans! Everyone wins.

Think about it. There's a reason why bands with short careers are so well-loved—they don't stick around long enough to make crappy albums. Bands that don't die of natural causes before starting to suck should follow this example, starting now.

Research Programs. His work focuses on the relationships between brain neurotransmitters (particularly serotonin) and social behavior. He will present a talk titled "Moms, Mil, and Nature: Lessons Learned from the Study of Gene-Environment Interactions in Monkeys." Snacks and drinks will be provided. For more information, contact Jeff French at 554-2558.

Caroling event for Thursday in Eppley foyer

Faculty and staff are invited to participate in this year's holiday caroling event Thursday at UNO.

Carolers will gather from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Eppley Administration Building foyer. Song sheets and flute accompaniment will be provided.

Singers may come and go as their schedule allows.

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Maverick women drop two close games at Vermillion's USD Classic

J. PARKER ADAIR
NEWS EDITOR

This weekend was going to be a big challenge for the UNO women's basketball team. Everyone knew that going into the weekend. They were within five points in the final three minutes against undefeated Southwest Minnesota State, before losing by 12 points Friday afternoon.

Saturday afternoon, they came back from a 21-point deficit to lose by three to a Wayne State team that beat Nebraska-Kearney—a team UNO lost to by two points—by 18.

While success is often measured in wins and losses, this weekend proved that UNO can make an impact on quality Division II opponents.

Against SWMS, the Mavericks came out strong defensively, holding the Mustangs to less than 40 percent shooting in the first half. That didn't translate to offense, as in previous games, with UNO also shooting less than 40 percent.

Still, UNO held the lead with just more than three minutes to go in the half. The Mustangs went on a 6-0 run to end the half 24-19.

Southwest picked up where it left off, maintaining a nine-point margin most of the half. UNO did pull within three early and within five inside three minutes, but it was not enough. A Sara Myers jumper—which she converted into a three-point play—at just under six minutes, was the last UNO field goal of the game.

J.J. Smith scored two free throws at 1:39, pulling within seven, but it was not enough as SWMS won 58-46.

Smith's 15 points, and 14 from Karen Thies led UNO. Michelle Burns had 18 for the Mustangs. UNO's depth was not present

percent for the game.

Chelsea Malone added seven rebounds while Lindsey Peterson led the team in assists

loss.

Wayne State worked to a 14-point lead in the first nine minutes, ending with a 37-22 halftime advantage. The Wildcats ran out to an 18-point gap in the second, before UNO closed the gap with a 10-0 run. A 13-4 run pulled UNO within two points after a Thies layup at 2:28.

On the next possession, Wayne State, hit two free throws. Peterson hit her first free throw at 1:59, but missed the second. Groslic had a look at a horn-halting three-pointer, but it didn't fall, allowing the Wildcats to escape with a three-point win.

"We had a super-close game at the end," Maverick Head Coach Patty Patton Shearer said. "If we made free throws, I think we would have been able to easily win that game."

UNO was 11-18—61.1 percent—from the charity stripe, its Achilles heel. Wayne shot an 81.1 percent clip on 9-11 shooting.

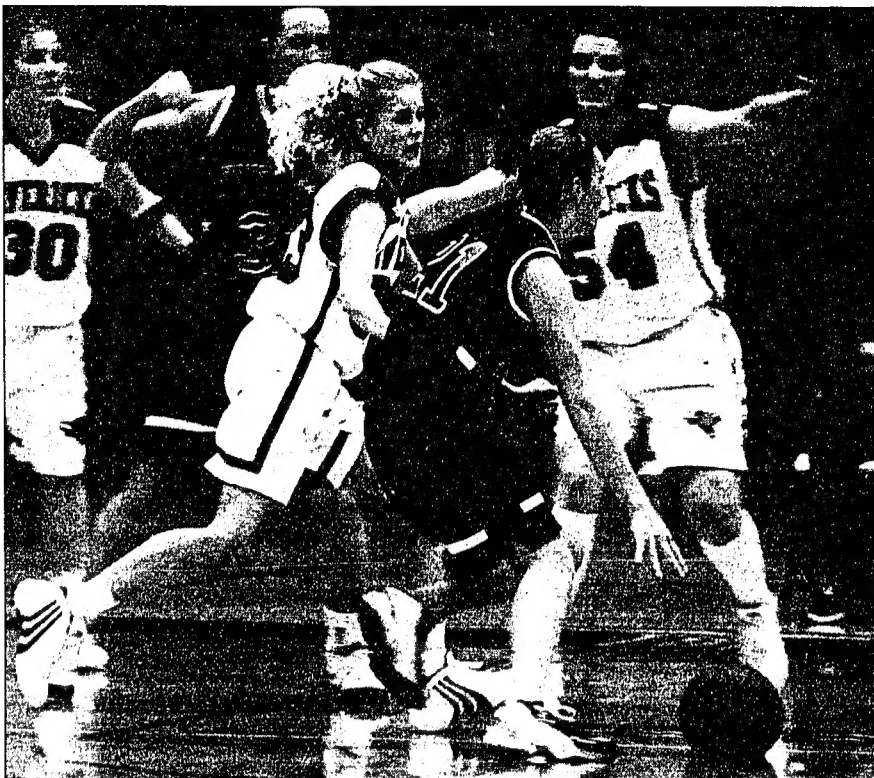
From the field, UNO played much better. In the first half, the Mavs shot 41.7 percent but had 56.5 in the second.

"We really played great the second half," Patton Shearer said. "We were pretty tentative, didn't execute in the first half, but we had a chance to win at the end. We just have to sustain it for 40 minutes; great basketball."

Groslic led the Mavs with six rebounds, while Peterson again led UNO in assists with five.

"I thought we had a pretty good weekend, but we didn't play great," Patton Shearer said.

Now at 4-3, UNO looks to stay perfect at home with a game tonight against College of St. Mary. Tipoff is at 6 p.m. at the Sapp Fieldhouse.



Michelle Bishop

Andrea Schoepf guards a player during a recent game.

in the game, as Carlye Jones had eight, with Myers being the only other Mav scoring at least four. UNO shot 8-21 in each half—38.1 percent—while the Mustangs improved to 42.9

and steals with four each.

The depth came back against Wayne State as Smith and Chelsie Groslic each had 13 points. Peterson added 10 in the three-point

UNO soccer blanks in semifinal match

ANGIE PECK
SPORTS EDITOR

It was the third-straight trip to the final four of the NCAA soccer tournament for the Mavericks and the second year they were shutout in the semifinal match.

Metro State defeated the Mavericks 2-0 Thursday night in Wichita Falls, Texas. UNO controlled the ball for most of the first half, but the Metro State Roadrunners scored 30 minutes into the match, picking up their 100th goal of the season. Six minutes later another goal put UNO down by two at the half.

The Mavericks came out strong in the second half, out-shooting the Roadrunners 7-2. Six minutes into the second half, Amber Richardson sent a ball from 18 yards out just over the head of Metro

State goalie Mandy Allen that hit off the crossbar and fell straight down, denying the Mavericks a goal.

Junior Amy Price made three saves but let the two first-half goals slip in. UNO has now been shutout by Metro State in all three games the two have played.

It was the fifth consecutive shutout in post-season play and the seventh overall for Metro State.

The Mavs, who played all their NCAA tournament games on the road this year, now have a 9-3 record in three trips to the NCAA postseason. They were the only team currently making their third straight trip to the semifinals.

UNO finished the season 19-4-2. Amber Richardson and Anne Willrett were both named to the All-Tournament Team.

Swimming and diving qualify three individuals and two teams for Nationals

ANGIE PECK
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO swimming and diving team picked up another victory finishing first out of eight teams with a score of 1,353 in the Mutual of Omaha Invitational held Friday and Saturday at the HIPER Pool.

On Friday, three individuals and one relay team qualified for the NCAA Division II Nationals. Qualifiers include: the 200-yard freestyle relay team of Molly Connolly, Martina Zamecnik, Jessica Hessel, and Lisa Wemhoff (1:37.05); and individually Courtney Peterson in the 400-yard individual medley (4:33.48); Ashley Renshaw in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:05.77; and

Sarah Clark in the 50-yard freestyle (23.82).

On Saturday, the Mavericks added one more team to the trip. The 200-yard medley relay of Katie Liebmman, Connolly, Zamecnik and Clark finished with a time of one minute, 46.82 seconds to automatically qualify.

The women were paced with five first-place finishes leading them to the invite victory. UNO has a perfect 3-0 in dual matches and has finished second and first respectively in its other invitationals.

The Mavericks' next action is against South Dakota, at 6 p.m. Dec. 8th in Vermillion, SD.

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OMNI Behavioral Health

MBSC Activities

Milo Bail Student Center



Tues., Dec. 7th

7 am Catholic Campus Ministry
9 am SAC Exec. Council
10 am Dramatic Arts
11:30 am Saving Your Semester
11:30 am Multicultural Affairs Workshop
11:30 am Dean's Forum & Jay Noren
12 noon FMLA
1:30 pm Business Manager Interview
2 pm Service Learning Community Presentation
2 pm Campus Holiday Open House
2:30 pm Academic Affairs
3 pm Delta Epsilon Chi
6 pm Alpha Xi Delta
7 pm Amnesty International
7 pm Alpha Xi Delta
7 pm Lambda Theta Nu

Wed., Dec. 8th

7 am Campus Crusade
8 am Traffic Appeals
11 am Public Administration
11 am Air Force ROTC
11:30 am Multicultural Affairs Workshop
11:30 am Next Generation Leadership Luncheon
12 noon Jazz in the Nebraska Room
12 noon ALAS
1 pm Pan African Student Organization
2 pm Faculty Senate
2:30 pm Teaching Circles & Research Triangles
3 pm CCSW

3 pm Jr. Panhellenic
6 pm Dramatic Arts

Thurs., Dec. 9th

10 am Dramatic Arts
10 am Student Affairs
10 am Consider This . . .
11:30 am Multicultural Affairs Workshop
12 noon Library Reference Interview
12 noon FYE
12 noon Jazz in the Nebraska Room
1:30 pm Academic Advisors
2 pm Greek Life Task Force
4:30 pm Honors Symposium
6 pm Delta Sigma Pi
7 pm Theta Chi

Fri., Dec. 10th

8:30 am Women of Color Awards Planning Committee
9 am Panhellenic
9:30 am Retirement Planning Session
10 am ITS Fiene Presentation
11:30 am PA Mock Interviews
11:30 am University Supervisors Luncheon
12 noon IPD Graduation Luncheon
12 noon Jazz in the Nebraska Room
12 noon AA
1 pm Psi Chi
1 pm Pan African Student Organization
2 pm FYE Teaching Circle
5 pm AKD Colloquium

6:30 pm Bahai Club
6:30 pm CPACS Diner

Sat., Dec. 11th

9:30 am UNO Community History Challenge
10 am Child Care Holiday Program
12 noon Sigma Beta Club
6 pm Football Banquet

Sun., Dec. 12th

2 pm Zeta Tau Alpha
2 pm SPO
3 pm Muslim Student Association
4 pm Sigma Kappa
4 pm Theta Chi
5 pm Pi Kappa Alpha
6:30 pm Theta Chi
7:30 pm Zeta Phi Beta

Mon., Dec. 13th

9 am Recruitment Services
12 noon AA
12 noon The Grove
12 noon African American Organization
12 noon Library Reference Interview
12:45 pm Committee B
2 pm UNO Graduate Council
7 pm ROSAS

Tues., Dec. 14th

9 am Pathways to Harmony

9 am Staff Advisory Council
9:30 am MFT Exam
12 noon FMLA
12 noon Pathways

Wed., Dec. 15th

8 am Traffic Appeals
1 pm Pan African Student Organization
2:30 pm Dual Enrollment

Thurs., Dec. 16th

7:30 am Cap & Gown pick up
10 am Consider This . . .
12 noon Afghan Teacher Education Project
2 pm International Programs
6 pm Delta Sigma Pi
7 pm Native American Studies Honoring

Friday, Dec. 17th

8 am Cap & Gown
11 am ILUNO Closing Ceremony
11:30 am Commencement Luncheon
12 noon AA
1 pm Pan African Student Organization
1:30 pm AAUP Exec. Board
9 pm NPHC Dance

Last Gateway for the semester will be the Holiday Issue Friday, Dec. 10th
We'll be back Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2005
Good Luck with Finals!

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